

HEALTH BENEFITS E-NEWS

*Department of Human Resource Management
Office of Health Benefits*

January 1, 2006

U.S. Oncology and Anthem Reach Verbal Interim Agreement

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and the specialists at Oncology and Hematology Associates of Southwest Virginia, Inc., Virginia Oncology Associates, and Fairfax-Northern Virginia Hematology-Oncology, P.C. (collectively managed by US Oncology in Houston, TX) have reached a verbal interim agreement which would secure participation through April 30, 2006. This is good news indeed for oncology patients in Southwest Virginia, Tidewater and Northern Virginia. Anthem must make system changes to reinstate these providers, which will take approximately two weeks. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

View Additional State Medicare Part D Materials Online

State Medicare-eligible retiree group members in Advantage 65, Option I and Option II were mailed more information from DHRM in mid-December about the transition to their new prescription drug benefit. These materials may be accessed at www.dhrm.virginia.gov/hbenefits/retirees/medicareretiree.html. Go to Quick Links on the right and click on the Transition Issues and Informational Materials links. By now, these members should have received a letter from Medco that includes their new Medco ID number. Their Medco ID card and Welcome Kit should have arrived or will be arriving soon. New Anthem ID cards also were mailed in mid-December to ALL Medicare-eligible retiree group participants, including those who have elected the new medical-only (no drug coverage) plans.

Reminder to Correct Bad Addresses Received on Exception Report

The exception report (PM 9641) made available to state agencies monthly indicates the employees at your agency having incorrect addresses in BES that cannot be verified with the U.S. Postal Service. Just a reminder that it is your responsibility to find out the employee's correct address, match it to the U.S. Postal Service address, and enter the correct address in BES. Until the address is corrected, mail sent to the employee at the bad address will be returned as undeliverable. For more details, see the September 15, 2005 issue of *E-News*.

Web Resources Available on Prescription Drug Benefit

Need more information on the COVA Care prescription drug benefit? Trying to find a drug claims reimbursement or mail service pharmacy form? A wealth of prescription drug information may be accessed on the DHRM Web site, including a prescription drug guide, three-tier fact sheet and Medco drug-related forms. Visit Compensation and Benefits, Health Benefits, For Employees, COVA Care, Prescription Drugs. Or go to www.dhrm.virginia.gov/hbenefits/openenroll05/prescriptiondrugs.html. The Frequently Asked Questions on COVA Care link also contains prescription drug questions and answers that may be useful to you. That link is www.dhrm.virginia.gov/hbenefits/openenroll05/covacare.html. You also may find the latest information on the new state enhanced Medicare Part D drug benefit by visiting the Medicare-eligible retiree Web page at www.dhrm.virginia.gov/hbenefits/retirees/medicareretiree.html.

